

# Cradle to Prison Pipeline Idaho



Children's Defense Fund

2007

## Poverty

**Poverty is the largest driving force of the Cradle to Prison Pipeline crisis.**

- In Idaho, among all children, **1 in 6** (17.7 percent or 64,926) **was poor**.
  - For **Latino** children **3 in 8** (37.4 percent or 17,780) were poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 7** (14.3 percent or 43,008) was poor.
- In Idaho, a **baby is born poor** every **2 hours**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **3 hours**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **7 hours**.

## Health Care

**Disadvantages in health care increase the risk that poor children and particularly poor children of color will be trapped in the pipeline.**

- In 2005, an estimated **48,000 children (12.1%)** were **uninsured** in Idaho.
- In 2004, **1,529 babies (6.8%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Idaho. This included:
  - 7.0% of Latino babies and
  - 6.6% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **31.6%** of two-year-olds in Idaho **did not receive** all recommended **immunizations** in 2005.

## Early Childhood

**Children who do not participate in high-quality early education have higher rates of juvenile delinquency, arrests, and juvenile court petitions.**

- In the 2004-2005 school year, **8.0% of 3-year-olds** and **18.5% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Idaho.
- In 2005, **2,640 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Idaho. Of these:
  - .7% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 35.7% were Latino; and,
  - 52.3% were White, non-Latino.

## Child Welfare

**Children in foster care or with a history of abuse and neglect are at higher risk of being trapped in the pipeline.**

- In 2003, there were **1,401 children in foster care** in Idaho.
- In 2004, there were **1,856 victims of child maltreatment** in Idaho.

## Education

**Educational disadvantages make it more likely that children will enter the juvenile justice system.**

- In 2005, a **disproportionate number** of Black and Latino **fourth graders could not read at grade level**. In Idaho:

- 89% of Latino and
- 63% of White, non-Latino fourth graders could not read at grade level.
- **Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely than their peers to drop out of school altogether.** In Idaho:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 4.1 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 5.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 3.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 6.6 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 1.9 suspensions.
- In Idaho, **8.2% of youth ages 16 to 19 were neither enrolled in school nor high school graduates.**

### **Juvenile Justice System and Incarceration**

**Children of color are disproportionately represented in both the juvenile and criminal justice systems.**

- In Idaho, there were **9,864 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **489 youth in residential placement in Idaho** in 2003:
  - 90 (18.4%) were Latino and
  - 363 (74.2%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **72 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Idaho.
- Idaho spends **3.6 times as much per prisoner as per public school pupil.**

### **Community Violence**

**Between 1979 and 2004, gunfire killed 101,413 children and teens in America, destroying countless families and communities.**

- In 2004, **16 children and teenagers** in Idaho **died of firearm injuries**, including: **3 homicides**, 10 suicides, and 3 unintentional shootings.
- In 2005, **32.3%** of Idaho's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **8.3%** of Idaho's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- **23.9%** of Idaho's high school students **carried a weapon 2 or more times** in the preceding month.